## REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiners allowance of claims 10-14, 16-18, 21-28, 30-32, 35-37 and 39-48. Applicants, however, submit the following comments regarding the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance stated on Page 2 of the Notice of Allowance. In the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner indicated that the prior art fails to teach or suggest "aggregating one or more signatures in a first memory to produce one or more signature vectors to be aggregated over a collection interval, plus archiving the signature vectors, randomly zeroing a fraction of one or more signature vectors & merging the signature vector bits older than a time interval." This statement of reasons for allowance appears to be directed to the features of independent claims 10 and 24. Applicants note, however, that independent claims 39 and 40 recite combinations of features not suggested or disclosed by the references of record.

For example, claim 39 recites a system that includes "a first memory," "a second memory," "one or more signature taps configured to: receive packets at the node, and compute one or more signatures for each of the received packets," "a multiplexer configured to: use each of the one or more signatures as addresses for addressing bit locations in the first memory" and "set memory bits in the addresses of the first memory corresponding to each of the one or more signatures" and "a controller configured to archive a signature vector comprising a block of memory bits from the first memory in the second memory."

Furthermore, claim 40 recites a system that includes "a first memory," "a second memory," "a signature tap to determine at least one signature for each packet of a plurality of received packets," "a multiplexer to store, over a collection interval, the determined at least one signature for each of the plurality of received packets in the first memory to produce a signature vector that

comprises a block of a plurality of signatures for at least a portion of the plurality of received

packets" and "a controller configured to archive the signature vector in the second memory after an

expiration of the collection interval." Applicants submit that it is the novel and non-obvious

combination of features recited in both independent claims 39 and 40 that distinguish these claims

over the references of record.

Additionally, in the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner stated that "the limitation

'signature' has an intrinsic definition of any variants of hashing algorithms such as MD5 message

digest algorithm, secure hash algorithm (SHS), RIPEMD-160, message authentication codes, or

Cyclical Redundancy Checking." In asserting this "intrinsic definition" of the term "signature," the

Examiner cites to pg. 9 of Applicants' specification. Paragraph [0032] on page 9 of Applicants'

specification sets forth the following:

> Data generation agent 520 may use *any technique* for computing the signatures of
> each incoming packet. Such techniques *may include* hashing algorithms (e.g., MD5
> message digest algorithm, secure hash algorithm (SHS), RIPEMD-160), message
> authentication codes (MACs), or Cyclical Redundancy Checking (CRC) algorithms,
> such as CRC-32. (emphasis added)

As shown in paragraph [0032] above, the data generation agent 520 may use any technique for

computing signatures, and such techniques may include the described exemplary hashing

algorithms. The described hashing algorithms merely represent a few examples of a number of

techniques for computing signatures. Thus, the "signatures" recited in Applicants' claims may be

derived using any technique for computing signatures of an incoming packet, and are not limited to

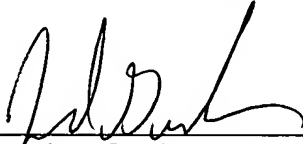"any variants of hashing algorithms" as stated by the Examiner in the Reasons for Allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response other than as reflected on the enclosed

Issue Fee Transmittal. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945,

under Order No. BBNT-P01-364 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 22, 2007                     Respectfully submitted,

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